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Rec'd:

NOVEMBER 25, 1958

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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 400, NOVEMBER 25, 10 PM

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SENT BONN 352, DEPARTMENT 400, POLAD USAREUR PRIORITY 127;
USAFE ROUTINE 27, REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 117, LONDON 52,
PARIS 66

PARIS ALSO PASS USCINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST.

DEPUTY COMMANDANTS AT MEETING THIS AFTERNOON ATTENDED BY POLITICAL
ADVISERS AND CALLED ON U.S. INITIATIVE AGREED TO FOLLOWING PAPER:

BEGIN QUOTE.

IT IS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND URGENTLY
THAT PRESENT CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS RE SURFACE ACCESS,
TRIPARTITELY AGREED UPON IN BONN AT THE END OF 1957 (BONN'S
DESPATCH 1075, DEC 18, 1957), BE IMMEDIATELY CHANGED TO PROVIDE
THAT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT GDR PERSONNEL REPLACE SOVIETS AT THE
CHECKPOINTS, ALLIED OFFICIAL PERSONNEL TRAVELLING BY MOTOR VEHICLE
AND ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS TURN BACK AND NOT PROCEED IF GDR
CHECKPOINT PERSONNEL DO NOT WAIVE VEHICLE OR TRAIN THROUGH
WITHOUT FORMALITY OF ANY KIND, EVEN THE SHOWING OF DOCUMENTS.
IF THIS RESULTS IN SELF-IMPOSED SURFACE BLOCKADE. THE NEEDS
OF THE ALLIED GARRISONS BE MET BY A GARRISON AIRLIFT.

THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH IS
THE ONLY WAY TO INSURE FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE ACTION. TO
FOLLOW CURRENT CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS WOULD AT THE OUTSET
LOCK US INTO A POSITION FROM WHICH IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT
TO EXTRICATE OURSELVES WITHOUT LOSING STANDING VIS-A-VIS
THE WEST GERMANS AND OTHER ALLIES. IT WOULD STILL BE OPEN

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- 2 - 400, NOVEMBER 25, 10 PM FROM BERLIN

TO US TO RESUME SURFACE TRAVEL OF A RESTRICTED NATURE WHEN WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE SITUATION WAS DEVELOPING AND HOW OTHER SIDE REACTS TO GARRISON AIRLIFT.

MOTOR VEHICLES, OR ALLIED MILITARY TRAIN, CAUGHT IN THE SOVIET ZONE AT THE MOMENT OF A GDR TAKE-OVER, WOULD BE DEALT WITH ON AN AD HOC BASIS, I.E., WHEN THE VEHICLE OR TRAIN ARRIVES AT THE CHECKPOINT, AND GDR CHECKPOINT GUARDS ARE NOT WILLING TO PASS THE VEHICLE OR TRAIN WITHOUT A FORMALITY OF SOME SORT, THE TRAIN OR VEHICLE SHOULD TURN BACK AND TRY TO RETURN TO ITS POINT OF ORIGIN. IF THIS IS NOT PERMITTED, OR AFTER A VEHICLE HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO ENTER THE AUTOBAHN, THE CHECKPOINT AT OTHER END INSISTS ON FORMALITIES, THEN THE CAR PASSENGERS AND TRAIN COMMANDER ARE TO FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED UNDER CURRENT CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS RE SURFACE ACCESS. SUCH ACTION WOULD NOT VITIATE OUR POSITION, SINCE IT WOULD SOON BE CLEAR THAT SUCH ACTION WAS TAKEN FOR REASONS OF MOMENTARY EXPEDIENCY AND DOES NOT SET A PRECEDENT.

END QUOTE.

DEPUTIES AGREED IF FOREGOING IS APPROVED REQUEST AUTHORITY DRAFT IN BERLIN NEW INSTRUCTIONS IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATION.

French (See Berlin's 402)
BRITISH AND AMERICAN COMMANDANTS AGREE. HAVE BEEN UNABLE REACH FRENCH COMMANDANT BUT FRENCH DEPUTY CERTAIN HIS COMMANDANT WILL AGREE.

JB/23

COFLER

NOTE: MR. HILLENBRAND'S OFFICE (GER) NOTIFIED 6:30 PM, 11/25/58
CWO-M

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